

## National Republican.

A. M. CLAPP, EDITOR.

The National Republican.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1877.

## The New Daily.

The Washington Post, the new Democratic organ, made its bow to the public yesterday in a very graceful manner. It is very comely in appearance typographically, and its editorial give token of ability and sprightliness which promise a good degree of life in its columns. Its salubrity is exceedingly modest in its aims. It is not a law in its promises, nor is it conceded in its utterances. In politics it is decidedly Democratic, and for that we like it, as those political journals which are neither one thing nor the other in politics, under existing party divisions, find little favor with live men. In other party, and there are but few now to be found outside of one or the other of the two great parties of the day. We have no affection for the politics which it advocates. We have a political difference with it of more than forty years' standing, which by this time must have become chronic and unalterable, but we entertain a high respect for those who sincerely and manfully do honorable battle on that side, while at the same time we cannot help pitying their errors and fallacies.

We take off our hat to our new cotemporary and welcome it to the journalistic circle of the national capital. There is room and work enough for us all, though times are hard, and the rewards of labor and enterprise may not prove very generous.

## The Indian Commission Question.

There appeared in the columns of the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN yesterday morning a communication under the signature of "H. C. P.," which criticizes with some severity the manner in which the name of Mr. HAYT was sent to the Senate again after its lapse in the special session, within an almost incredible short space of time. The purpose of this communication was to convey the idea that the name was not sent in to the Senate again by the President, but found its way there in rather a clandestine manner. Of the real facts we had no information except what was conveyed to us by the communication and its author; and in view of that we took occasion to express a doubt as to the credibility of the statement.

We notice that the Evening Star of yesterday makes haste to interpose a denial on the authority of the White House—which may mean the President, his secretary, or his messenger—of the correctness of the statements therein contained. This fact has led us to inquire more fully into the matter, and we are satisfied that the use of the name of Mr. MITCHELL, the private secretary of the Secretary of the Interior, is in no degree justified by the facts. But in regard to the main allegations contained in that communication, after careful investigation of the matter we are prepared to make this proposition: When either the President or the Secretary of the Interior, or both, shall make to us a denial of the main allegations therein set forth, we will either present a statement of corroborated facts that will show full justification for them, or we will make the amende honorable in the fullest possible manner.

## The Silver Question.

There is a nice little correspondence in progress between Messrs. JAMES B. COLGATE & Co., of New York city, and the Secretary of the Treasury, over a proposition of that firm to purchase \$150,000 of the four per cent. bonds for silver bullion, to be deposited in the assay office at an amount that would produce the sum required at the rate of 412½ grains, standard fineness, to the silver dollar. The Secretary, instead of answering the proposition yes or no, categorically, wrote a letter of some length, in which he took occasion to discuss the silver question on its merits from the gold standpoint, which was given to the public before it was received by the gentlemen to whom it was addressed.

This proceeding on the part of the Secretary appears to have aroused the spirit of the COLGATES, and they came back at the chancellor of the exchequer in rather an unamiable mood. Under this frame of mind they call the attention of the Secretary to the silver performances of the Government under the influence of the gold power of the country, and point to what has been done and what might be done again under the same line of policy. They suggest how the Treasury could profitably use the 150,000 silver dollars offered the Government. These silver dollars, from the year 1862, at which time the Government began freely to issue its six per cent. bonds were always at a premium above gold until they were dropped from the list of authorized coins in 1873-74, and at which time they were worth about par in gold. They suggest that the Treasury could now use the 150,000 silver dollars, and make from it \$100,000.00 subsidiary coin and dispose of it to the people at par in currency, thereby making a clear profit to the Treasury of \$10,000.00. They ask, Do you "think this fair or honest?"

The Treasury has gained millions of dollars the past few years minting subsidiary coin and selling it at par in currency to the people; each \$1,000 of which weighing 55½ ounces less than \$1,000 of the discredited dollars of our fathers, and they ask, Do you "think this fair or honest?"

The Secretary has as yet made no answer to the public in regard to the suggestions of the New York silver dealers, and we doubt

If he will venture to do so. The discussion of the silver question in the Secretary's annual report is so charged with partisanship for the gold side of the question that there is no more hope of a change of his views and opinions on this question than there is of a surrender of the Gold Board in Wall Street. It appears that the Administration looks for its financial light from the glitter of gold, and closes its vision in every other direction.

CHAUCEY says:

For gold in phials is a cordial;  
Therefore he loved gold in special.

So long as there is no more gold for the people, except by purchase at a premium, and as silver has been a factor in our currency of even value with gold, and might be again if the Government shall so will, we are at a loss to understand why gold is to be recognized as king, and is to rule the Government and the people with an arbitrary will, when relief from its domination is offered through a silver medium—unless the glittering stuff has carried the Government into captivity.

## The Public Credit.

President HAYT briefly, but incorrectly, states in relation to an important subject, "It is a matter of congratulation that, notwithstanding the severe burdens caused by the war, the public faith with all creditors has been preserved." A

In behalf of a suffering portion of our fellow-citizens, including disabled soldiers, widows, and children, we dissent from this obscure, yet important, declaration, and, to substantiate the truth of our statement, can refer to many persons of the class stated whose claims are undisputed, and are only awaiting the termination of Secretary SHERRMAN's policy toward the poor to be paid. With accumulations in the Treasury, made up in part of captures by these claimants, which the Government holds with an iron grip and with an unmerciful disposition to repudiate these claims, which are fully as deserving, if not more so, than those presented by the bondholder, we must decline to accept the quoted part of the message as having the shadow of foundation.

If the President is desirous of knowing in reality the value of the national credit let him consider the recent emphatic assertion of an old soldier, whose paltry claim for bounty was long since allowed. He said: "I have a small claim against the Government which was due me long ago, and I am refused payment until they are ready. If my Government was again in want of a man, or a dollar I would not give either to its support." And the President can be accommodated, if desired, with the names of many in a similar frame of mind. Is it not absolutely shameful that an official of the Government will have the effrontery to recommend that claims which have been justly allowed be not paid? Is this not dishonesty? It is plainly the duty of Congress to investigate these facts, and the same simple proof can be submitted in corroboration of this statement, which demonstrates the truth of a policy detrimental to the credit of the country.

## Civil-Service Reform.

We had supposed the primary purpose of civil-service reform and rules in the Government was to be to secure ability and integrity in the public service, and to make no changes of experienced officials, except where their terms of service have expired or where their qualifications are found wanting. The present or any other administration will find no more direct mode of justification, under an assumed civil-service policy, than to make changes in the personnel of the civil service for the more purpose of rewarding friends, when those to be displaced for that purpose are known and acknowledged to be capable and faithful public servants. It matters little whether these changes are made on the part of the appointing power from party or personal considerations, there is a hazard to the public service in making them, when they are the result of causes foreign to those relating to the integrity and ability of the incumbents. To turn out one good man from position and put another in his place who is no better, if as good, is not civil-service reform at all; and those who maneuver under such a policy will sooner or later learn how much of popular distrust will be challenged by the proceeding. We venture the opinion that in nineteen cases out of twenty, where removals have been made or resignations have been called for, since the 4th of March last, and others have been appointed in their places, the public service has been placed in jeopardy or under deterioration by the change.

Where commissions have expired, and the appointing power has deemed it advisable to try an experiment by injecting new material from the State of Ohio or elsewhere into the public service, the action is less pointed and noticeable than when suspensions or removals are made to make room for some personal or political friend or family relative, without any regard to the consequences liable to befall the public service thereby. Every change brings a risk in the way of capacity, integrity, and experience to the public service, and a true regard for its efficiency and integrity will occasion much hesitancy on the part of a genuine civil-service reformer before changes are made without just cause. We do not recognize caprice or partiality or family ties as affording just cause for turning one man out of place and putting another in his stead when the capacity and honesty of the party removed are above reproach. To do this only brings ridicule upon the appointing power and reproach upon the service.

In the city of New York there are three important offices connected with the collection of the customs duties of that port—the collector of customs, surveyor, and naval officer. Two of these offices are filled by capable, efficient, and honest men, whose terms of service have not yet expired. Their duties have been discharged with marked fidelity. Indeed there can be no hope of improvement under a change, and yet an attempt has been made to remove them, not for cause, but from caprice, and Senator CONKLINE has interposed his influence in the Senate to prevent this serious infraction of the civil service principles and rules of the Government, and not without some success. For this act of public duty and beneficence to the service he has been reviled beyond measure by a class of superservient politicians who always revolve around the seat of power as the senseless miller floats around the lighted wick. They are mere sycophants and flatterers, who worship the rising sun and feel

called upon to show a petty devotion to power by abusing those who differ from it in regard to the wisdom or justice of its acts. These are those who have sought to impugn the motives of Senator CONKLINE, for the reason that he has, as a part of the advisory power under the Constitution relating to appointments to office, insisted upon a consistent respect for the principles which govern the civil service. There is no measure of enormity too broad or deep for occasion to be brought against this statesman for standing firmly and faithfully by the side of capable and honest officials in the hope of saving them from the altar of a proscription sacrifice.

It is just cause of pride and satisfaction on the part of Senator CONKLINE and his friends that he has in several instances been able to save the President from a position of self-satisfaction under his own rules of civil service by preventing the removal of good men and the appointment of questionable ones in their stead. There are a few, and only a few, sycophantic journals scattered through the country who commend the attempts of the Executive to violate his own published rules of action; and they make haste to indicate their subservience by denouncing or criticizing the course of New York's favorite Senator, but their warfare is weak, mercenary, and impotent, and when they have tired themselves out by throwing dirt at Senator CONKLINE, he will emerge from the contest unharmed, while his petty assailants will drop away into utter obscurity. Undoubtedly New York's great Senator is among the most consistent civil service reformers now on the American stage, and what is more, he has determined, if possible, to influence the President to a line of practical consistency in developing this leading policy of his administration.

It is intimated that the *entente cordiale* is being established between the President and the Senator, if it has ever been disturbed, and it is not improbable that the interest shown by Senator CONKLINE in the way of securing consistent civil service reform has something to do with these prospective relations of amity.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

IN THE MESSIAH. A novel, by CHRISTINE M. KENNEDY. J. Lippincott & Co. Philadelphia. For sale by John B. Ford, corner Seventh and Pennsylvania avenues.

Another story of a mother's "wait" raised in stately affluence without the affection and sympathy of a father, who finally brings home a cold-hearted and cruel step-mother to tyrannize over his only child through a long course of girlhood, thwarting her every wish and suppressing every generous thought and sentiment and compelling her warmest affections, remains in the face of the trials and sorrows of "Jane Eyre." This story is strongly written, and contains scenes of Virginia life of the olden times that dim the eyes and chill the heart. The plot is intricate and well conceived until the denouement, which, after the greatest wrench, misery and sorrow, turns out with much satisfaction in a second marriage of "Welf," and this time to her original lover, who meantime had experienced the truth of the saying, "Paint heart never won fair lady yet."

GRAPES AND GRAPEVINES OF CALIFORNIA. We have received the first number of this work, which is sold only by subscription, from Mr. C. A. Wetmore, correspondent of the *Alta California*, who is the agent for the work here. This number contains two beautiful illustrations of the products of the vine, which can be viewed at Barlow's, where subscription books are open.

TWO YEARS BEHIND THE FLOUNDER. A Pennsylvania fishing story, giving a true and faithful account of life on a Bucks County farm. Clayton, Remond & Haldinger. For sale by John B. Ford, corner Seventh and Pennsylvania avenues.

An admirable picture of country life in the Quaker region of Pennsylvania, in which the interest is kept fully alive by constantly recurring adventures. Oh, the city boy who has never been called upon to do any manual labor, that leaves a kind mother in his luxurious city home to go into the country and pitch into the rough life of the hard-working farmer, gains an experience in two years that will leave the real value of money, the value of kind parents and of a happy home. The work before us is a good illustration of such an experience and its effect on the after life of the adventurer. It is very quaintly written, in the idiom of the Friends, much of the dialogue at least, and is printed and bound in a manner to do credit to the publishers.

## THE IMMIGRANT BUILDERS: OR PRACTICAL HINTS TO LANDLORDS, BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, CLERKS, RENTERS, &amp; HUSBANDS.

By J. B. LAMAR, Architect, and J. B. LAMAR, Clerk. Philadelphia. For sale by John B. Ford, corner Seventh and Pennsylvania avenues.

This work on practical, cheap architecture, showing clearly how to plan and construct dwellings in the bush, on the prairie, or elsewhere, with wood, earth, or gravel, will be found of great interest to many others besides immigrants. It contains plans, drawings, and descriptions of the construction of houses, barns, additions, improvements, and ornamental walks, gardens, &c., &c. In detail, so that any clever person with a bit of tool may make himself and family comfortable by means of his advice in a short space of time.

## PERSONAL.

MISS ARBY SAGE RICHARDSON is lecturing in the West.

The Synagogue wants to know who runs the Government.

Six families of West Middlesex, Pa., have sixty-eight children.

STANLEY's latest African experiences have turned his hair gray.

JOHN COTTON SMITH predicts the speedy fall of Constantinople.

CHARLES MATTHEW takes final leave of the stage after the holding of many others.

SEYMOUR LAMAR, who has been quite ill for some time, is convalescent.

JAMES S. KEY, a prominent lawyer of Baltimore, has gone upon the stage.

PATTI has promised to sing during the International Fair at Milan in 1879.

GEN. GRANT has gained forty-eight pounds in weight since he has been abroad.

CONCISELY—"Mankind," said a preacher, "includes woman; for man embraces woman."

DOM PEDRO has introduced the green-gauge plumb and the narrow-gauge railroad into Brazil.

MR. SAMUEL O. WELLS, son of the late proprietor of the Port Tobacco Co. (Md.) Times, has taken charge of that paper.

MR. JOHN H. BROWN, Jr., has assumed the management of the *Ellicott City* (Md.) Times since the death of his father.

The mayor, recorder, and councilmen of Harper's Ferry, Va., appeal for aid for the sufferers by the recent flood.

MR. LAMAR's novel idea of converting the solid South to sound financial views by means of unlimited doses of "reconciliation" would be more popular if the number of conversions al-

ready secured in that way didn't stand so close to zero.

DANBURY News.—Judging from the numerous samples of his work, but it must be drunk about two-thirds of the bottle.

BONITO, the great artist, is painting a portrait of Victor Hugo, the great writer. Price to be paid—the autograph of the poet.

A London correspondent says: "Gen. Grant has more of all other agencies, restored good feeling between the two countries."

EX-GOV. PACKARD, of Louisiana, left this city last night, called to New Orleans by the probably fatal illness of one of his children.

The Cincinnati Gazette believes the Senate declined to confirm Grant, because the street would have another chance at his dinner.

The latest phase of the Ohio Senatorial contest is an attack of the Thurman clique upon General Morgan, the candidate recommended by William Allen.

F. R. PORTER, a reporter, who organized the Newark baby show, has decamped with the proceeds, and the mothers and babies are crying for their prize.

WINTER is preparing to spread his white sheet of death over the city, but it is nothing to the fierce gold-bugs are preparing for long-suffering mankind.

The only defect in the President's Southern policy is that it does not take into account the customs of the South, but it is nothing to the Northern Herald, (Repub.)

SUCH an absent-minded man is Judge Davis. He sat up all night to vote for Butler and then went into the cloak-room and forgot it.

(Chicago Inter-Ocean, (Rep.))

RAGS HENRY, the celebrated Prefect and ruler of Paris under Napoleon III., is one of the fifteen Protestants elected to the French Chamber of Deputies.

Mr. Tilden and Charles Francis Adams would make a concert tour, singing the great French words with various other tunes. They would draw better than Patterson as a lecturer.

MR. KINE, a temperance lecturer of Canada, desires to correct what he says is an erroneous belief that there is no fascination in drunkenness. He insists that there is joy in it, and he has been known to drink himself into a stupor.

BROWN, of Sloughborough, Ky., heard rattle-snakes about his house night and day, and after killing twenty-seven without apparently diminishing their number, moved his family and goods from the neighborhood.

Travelling Telegram.—Mr. David Dudley Field, having recovered from the lung and severe cold he caught by watching the American flag in his nightgown last winter, has resumed his labors on an international code.

THE Bureau of Bureaus, well known in New York society, and the daughter of Benjamin Holladay, of overland stage fame, has arrived from Europe in the steamship Britannic, accompanied by her son, Master Paul.

COL. P. DONAHY, who was incarcerated in the French prison at Metz during the Franco-Prussian war, is now in the city of New York, and is the proprietor of the *New York Herald*, and is the proprietor of the *New York Herald*.

HON. CLARKSON POTTER, of New York, who was prevented by an accident from delivering a promised address at Brooklyn College in June last, has accepted a second invitation to deliver the annual oration before the literary societies of that institution at the commencement of the year, being the quinquennial anniversary of the college.

MR. FRANK MARSHALL, the author of the delicate and charming comedy of "False Shame"—just now current at Wallack's Theatre—says: "In everything that appertains to literature, however remote, to children, there should be an atmosphere of domestic life. They are the only glimmers of angelic life which God vouchsafes to us here—flowers plucked from his garden."

MR. JOHN S. CLARKE, the comedian, owner of the Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, and the owner of the *New York Herald*, is now in the city of New York, and is the proprietor of the *New York Herald*.

HON. EMORY BRANCH, formerly a distinguished lawyer of Terre Haute, and now counsel at Chicago, has been presented to the President by the Indiana delegation for the mission to Brussels.

THE opinion of the people has been fully confirmed by wide-spread experience that Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is the best and cheapest remedy for coughs, colds, croup, asthma, &c.

## MARRIED.

LOWE-KAHER—November 2, 1877, by the Rev. Mr. Robinson, Wm. M. Lowe and Miss Louise KAHN.

MYERS—December 4, 1877, at 11 A. M., MARRIAGE of Mr. J. B. MYERS, of New York, and Miss MYERS, of New York, by the Rev. Mr. Robinson, Wm. M. Lowe and Miss Louise KAHN.

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## T. J. HOGAN, UNDERTAKER.

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## SPECIAL NOTICES.

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NEUROLOGICAL EXHAUSTION.—A MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, BY DR. J. W. DREW, 101 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NEW YORK.

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